REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty Sixth and Twenty Seventh Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on papers laid on the Table.

REPORT AND MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Bharat Electronics Limited,—Capacity Utilisation, Production and Pricing, Research and Divelopment and Minutes of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto.

STATEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statement (in English and Hindi) of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(i) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 114th Report of the Committee (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Sugar Exports in 1974 and 1985.

(ii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and Final replies in respect of Chapter V of 138th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Development of a Helicopter.

(iii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 138th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Replacement of a Basic Trainer Aircraft.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Plight of farmers in not getting remunerative prices for their Agricultural Produce

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Agriculture will reply to the clarifications sought by Members in relation to the Calling Attention statement made in the House yesterday regarding the remunerative prices for agricultural produce. After that special mentions will be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): Since the debate continued very late yesterday, my reply has been put for today.

Sir, I am very much impressed and delighted to find that the Members took very keen interest on the subject, particularly on the remunerative part of it. Many points were raised about the Commission itself. Some Members asked when will the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission be formed. Sir, everybody knows that the Commission is already very much in existence since 1965 and its terms of reference have been changed or being added to from time to time.

(**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair.)

It was in 1980 that the other term—the terms of trade—was added to it so as to taken into account what the farmer spends and what the farmer receives. It was last year the name was also changed to commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission (CACP).

The other factor that was very much objected to was that the Commission

had only one non-official member and three officials. I am very happy to say now besides the Chairman we are establishing a party between the official and non-Official members. We have increased the number of non-official members from one to three and the new shape of the commission with its Chairman will be very much implemented very soon.

A question was asked about the document earlier circulated—Agricultural Price Policy—A long-term perspective. The question was particularly with reference to its long term credit. I am am thankful to Shri Chitta Basu who has made a pertinent question as to how it could be a long term. The only policy that we have adopted is that we should think in terms of profitable technology and also proper delivery of the inputs and also the final aspect of it *i.e.* price so that this should not come below the remunerative line. We have also decided to lay a time schedule so that prices are announced sufficiently in advance of the sowing. It maybe wheat, paddy or cotton. So before the sowing season starts, we have a time schedule to announce the prices. The long term policy as you know, Sir, is based on the very important concept of not only production, but productivity. Although we have made a good progress in production and at the same time in productivity, but we have to look to the future and the times that are coming and take a long view as to how much technology will be pushed through and how much if need be subsidy will be pushed through so that it may reach the people. We have also to take into view, the future availability of land, crop pattern and how much we will be able to adopt those particular technologies.

A question was also asked about the productivity. If we the indices of agricultural productivity (*i.e.* crop yields) in 1979-80 (with Triennium ending 1969-70=100) as the base) the index went up by 14 per cent in 1980-81. In 1981-82 the index was 125.6. In 1982-83 it was 123.4. In 1983-84 it was 141.0. In 1984-85 it went upto 142.9. In this period it went up by 33 per cent. But still we have to make certain efforts so that we could make best use of the technology. As it is we have to add further to it.

A question was also asked about the terms of trade. May I say, Sir, that if we take the two figures...

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : हम लोगों का यह कहना है कि कि उत्पादन तो बढ़ा, उत्पादन तो देश में बढ़ा किसानों का, लेकिन किसानों की माली हालत खराब हुई, उनकी संख्या में गिरावट हुई, उनकी आमद प्रति व्यक्ति कम हो गयी । इसके बारे में कुछ कहिए तो हम लोगों को कुछ रोशनी मिले ।

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : इस बारे में कुछ कहा गया है, यही बात मैं कह रहा हूं । आपने यह प्वाइंट उठाया था, इसलिए मुझे बताना पड़ा प्रोडक्टिविटी का और, The commodities purchased for final consumption, there can be three categories of it. जो किसान मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं जो पहले खरीदती है, इन्पुट्स के लिए खरीदता है, मैंने अलहदा कहे हैं, अगर आप चाहें तो पढ़ दूं नहीं तो उसके परसेंटेज बताता हूं It is 72.55 per cent purchased for final consumption. उसमें आ जाते हैं Cycles, papers, tabacco, textiles medicines, utencils, edible oils, sugar, salt, kerosene, cosmetics, drugs and so many other things. So far as purchase for intermediate consumption is concerned, you can say it is part of the input. Fertilizers, services and repairs, electricity, insecticides, diesel, oil, oil-cakes, drugs and medicines etc. and purchase for capital formation, cement, lime, transport, equipment machinery, machi tools, iron tools, iron and steel a

[Shri G. S. Dhillon]

ferro alloy, logs and timber, agriculture, bricks and tiles.

फावडा, कल आपने हथौड़ा और फावडा का जिक्र किया था..... (व्यवधान)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : जिक्र किया गया लेकिन इसमें काम कितना बढ़ा इनपुट्स में गेहूं और धान में कितना बढ़ा? इसके कम्परेजन की बात है, इसको आप बता दीजिए। ट्रेक्टर पर कितना बढ़ा, थ्रावर ट्रलर 40 हजार का हो गया।

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: So far as prices are concerned in 1979-80, the price received according to 100 as base year of 1979 was Rs. 115 and price paid was Rs. 117. In 1981-82, the price received was Rs. 120.1 and price paid was Rs. 129.

इसमें इस साल में नीचे आए।

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : यह जो किसानों के खिलाफ गया, इसके बारे में आपको क्या कहना है?

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : एक साल का गया। सारा पूछना हो तो पूछ लेना।

In 1982-83, the indices of the price received was Rs. 127.89 and the price paid was Rs. 133.70. The ratio of indices of prices received to prices paid came to 95.60 in 1982-83. In 1983-84, the index of price received was 144.60 and the price paid was Rs. 144.50 which comes to almost equal. In 1984-85, the index of price received was Rs. 154.50 and the price paid was 154.90. Taking the total on both sides, as I said, the farmer is loser by 0.3 per cent.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to ask one thing from the hon. Minister. Mr. Minister, what you are reading is a period between 1979-80 and 1985. What we were all along quoting yesterday and in the study made by the Reserve Bank of India, indices and the Indian Institute of Public Affairs. Therein, Mr. Minister, they say that there is a gap and that the manufactured products, all these items which are there and with something more, come under the manufactured products and in the indices of the prices received by the agriculturists, there is a difference. There is a difference of 10 per cent on the base of 1970-71. So you are reading today certain figures which might show that at that time some parity might have been established.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: I am coming to that.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: If you want, we will have to bring again the literature from the library. We have returned that thing.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: You have asked me about manufactured products, on the one hand and agricultural products, on the other. In 1971-72, it was 109.5. In 1984-85, the figure for manufactured products was 319.5 and for agricultural products, it was 303.2. The percentage increase for manufactured products was 191.8 and for agricultural products, 202.2. which was more than the increase on the manufactured products side.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How?

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: It is wrong figure. मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आर्थिक समीक्षा में जो फिगर दी गई है उसको देख लें वह तो आप ही के द्वारा दी गई है।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: This is totally baseless. Either the Minister should again study and come here...

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : फिगर नहीं मिलती तो मैं क्या करूं? मेरी फिगर यही है।

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : आर्थिक समीक्षा के अनुसार 85 में 10 परसेंट का अंतर है। आप कह रहे हैं कि कोई अंतर नहीं है। कैसे मान लें?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: I am replying to the questions raised yesterday and not to the new questions.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, I am not asking new questions. I am

only bringing it to his notice again. He rightly mentioned about the relative prices of manufactured products and agricultural products. Please, Mr. Minister, for 1971-72, you said 109.1. Am I right?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot have such a cross-discussion. You see, the Minister is replying and he also has his figures which are authenticated. If you have any dispute, there are other measures which you can adopt. You cannot go on interrupting like this.

SRRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am not interrupting. He is quoting me wrongly. That is what I am correcting.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him mention his figures. You may mention afterwards.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: I said,, when it was 190.5, we took 1970-71 as the base year, starting with 100. I am not quoting anything new. I am just telling that the base was 100. A question was asked by my hon. friend from these benches about the public sector plan outlay and it was said that it has come down to 2 per cent. May I tell him that it is not 2 per cent but it is 5.9 per cent. I thought I should clarify it.

A question was again put that our share in the national income has gone down. Those who are students of economics or have interest in planning know...that the economy of other countries has shown that as the economic growth goes on increasing the agricultural share goes on decreasing. And that is taken as a welcome sign and not as a bad sign. The problem is as to whether production or productivity has gone down. The production has gone up and productivity has gone up by 55 per cent. But where the lands are not available, where the overall economy grows, it is but natural that we should be more dependent on productivity than other factors which is a must if we have to keep growing....

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Productivity of pulses has gone down.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: I am quoting from the figures. Honourable Members have referred to a study made by two scientists, Mr. Gulati and Mr. Swami. They took only a part of the crops, not the whole crop economy but only about one-third of the crops and for a limited period.

श्री वीरेंद्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जिस मामले में गुलाटी साहब ने फीगर्स दी उस मामले में तो वह करेक्ट हैं न ?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: In this the whole process is a process of methodology. In the methodology we have to take the whole crop pattern, the whole number of crops and the period and not part of it and say that this has been the result. I am sorry on this basis it is very difficult to accept their conclusions. But for my own knowledge I am trying to asses, if that is the position whether we can on our own guide them, if they like as to what factors they should have brought and what factors they have not brought. But just to base your argument on a partial survey is not very fair for the sake of public consumption....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am sorry to say, wheat and rice constitute 60 per cent weightage in the total food production. So you at least will realise— leave aside Gulati, etc—you, Mr. Dhillon, will realise that this is something contradictory....

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: No,

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Then God help you!

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Sixty per cent is all right. But what about the other 40 per cent? Should that have been taken or not?

[Shri G. S. Dhillon]

Then, a question was asked about jute. Jute as we have seen it at present, is mostly available in Assam and West Bengal. The jute from Assam comes to Calcutta and the price is added to it. It has been said that the prices have not been very fair as given by the CACP. In 1982-83 the minimum support price of W-5 at Calcutta was fixed at 235, the market price averaged at Rs. 269.17. In 1983-84 the minimum support price was Rs. 245, average market was 391.67. In 1984-85 the price fixed by the Jute Commissioner was Rs. 259, and it was sold in the market at an average price of Rs. 798.33, in the same year in one month it rose to 979, and in 1985-86 the minimum support price was Rs. 284 and it sold at Rs .305. But, within the period of these six months that have passed by, up to October, it sold at Rs. 296/-. I quite agree that there are certain basic problems about the jute industry and jute development. Last month, when the Prime Minister went to Calcutta, I happened to be there and he announced that an amount of Rs. 150 crores will be spent on modernising the jute industry and Rs. 100 crores will be spent on jute development.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Are you sure that the money will be properly utilized by the jute magnates because so far they have swallowed the money from the banks?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: What I have with me now I have told you and I think Rs. 250 crores is not a small amount.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: It is a very good amount. But the question is how you are going to utilize it.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: My own information is that in Calcutta the jute is slightly better in quality because of the flowing water content whereas it grows most of the time in stagnant waters only and so here is some difference in quality.

A point was raised yesterday and an honourable Member asked whether it is within our knowledge that some smuggling of jute is going on on our side. There may be some temptation for smuggling. Whether it is in practice or not we do not know.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, जूट का दाम जो गिर गया है, उसके कारण कैसे किसानों को माप सपोर्ट प्राइस दीजिएगा ।

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लो : वह तो न अपने रिटन स्टेटमेंट में ही दे दिया था। जब एग्रिकल्चरल प्राइसेस कमीशन अपनी प्राइस फिक्स करता है तो उसमें वेरियस फैक्टर्स काउंट करते हैं। आप कहें तो मैं उसको दुबारा पढ़ देता हूं। ... **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, on a point of clarification. (*Interruptions*). Madam, on a point of clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All the clarification were over yesterday and the Minister is replying now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the point is not—the Minister was saying so in his speech—whether the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission has fixed a lower price. It is not that at all. The West Bengal problem is that jute is being sold in the open market as distress sale despite the declaration by the Government of India on a number of occasions on the floor of the House that the Jute Corporation of India is purchasing so much that no distress sale is taking place. But this year we have the largest quantity of distress sale of jute and, as a result of this, the open market prices have come down and they have come below the Government price by Rs. 100. What does the Minister of Agriculture propose to do?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Plaase listen to me. With regard to the question of jute it was a question of supply and demand.

It is the minimum price which is fixed by the Government so that it may not result in a loss. But, if it goes up much more in the open market, then there is no question of any support purchases.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam he is totally misleading the House. (*Interruptions*) He is totally misleading the House. He does not know the price of jute there. The price of jute in the open market in West Bengal is much below the minimum price, the Government support price. But the Minister does not know this. (*Interruptions*).

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : जूट का दाम आपने 235 रुपए तय किया है ।

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*). The Minister is replying now and let him reply.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Whatever I have, I have given you. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: All these things have been given by the officers. (*Interruptions*). It is absolutely an essay written by the officers. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G.S. DHILLON: Then from where should I get the figures? I have to get them from those agencies only. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Then your agency is misleading you. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu): The honourable Minister knows much more about it. Why are you interrupting him when he is replying to you?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): If four Members stand up and start asking questions, how will the Minister reply? You have already made your point and again you are asking questions now. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: In 1985-86 we had a record.... (*Interruptions*). By merely your speaking loudly, I cannot admit that my figures are wrong. I am giving the figures as they are available with me. If you give me some evidence, if you have some evidence, that they are much lower, I can go through that. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The Minister is not clear on the point whether the jute growers are getting remunerative price, particularly the price fixed by you, and whether the J.C.I. is procuring at that price even then.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: (*Interruptions*).

Yesterday, a point was raised about the output. A member raised the question that the price of maize has gone down because the price of the inputs has gone up by four times. My information is that fertilisers constitute at the most 15 per cent of cost of cultivation specially chemical fertilisers. An increase in the price of chemical fertilisers by 10 per cent at the most raise the cost of cultivation by 1.5 per cent.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What about jute?

SHRI G. S. DHILLION: About that I have already told you.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : यह जो जवाब दिया जा रहा है यह बहुत गलत है । जवाब से असन्तुष्ट होकर हम वाक-आउट कर रहे हैं ।

[At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber]

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The hon. Minister is misleading the House by giving false information, totally false information.

[At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber].

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Tell me which is the false information, and I will look into it.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (Madhya Pradesh); May I suggest that let the hon. Minister complete his reply and then the Opposition Members be given an opportunity to raise certain points if they want to do so?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: They have already discussed it for about three hours and raised certain points. He is answering those points. We should not disturb him.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: After he completes his reply, if there are certain points which need clarification...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete his reply.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: As for planning. as I mentioned already when I was referring to the document, we have to put our plan in such a way that where we feel shortages like edible oil, pulses, etc., we have to re-construct the price in such a way that there may be some incentives for crops in which we are deficient and otherwise for those in which we are not deficient. In that document we have mentioned that we are giving more subsidy to edible oils and pulses.

Sugarcane cultivation was referred to in certain areas. I think Kulkarniji mentioned that certain areas may not be fit for it. Now, yield in Tamil Nadu is 100 tonnes, in Maharashtra it is between 80 to 90 tonnes. in Punjab also it is 60 to 65 tonnes but in U.P...

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Per acre or per hectare?

SHRI G S. DHILLON: Per hectare. In U.P., it is about 45. *(Interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now it has been decided that you will ask the clarifications after the Minister has finished his reply. Why are you going on interrupting?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: We have to measure it in terms of profit as compared with other crops. It is more profitable than other crops both in Tamil Nadu. In Punjab also, it is more profitable. So long as it is there. I don't think we can ask some States to discontinue it and others to continue it. That is my answer to you.

As regards the suggestion that it should be taken as an industry, I would like to say that in an industry there are some individuals or a company. Here, there are million of farmers and each farmer is growing a different crop. There are elements of weather and natural calamities. It is very pleasant to hear that agriculture should be declared as an industry.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: It should be given the status of an industry. It should be treated as an industry.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Then there are certain commodities which are perishable. They may continue for a long time or there may be some disease. There may be other factors. How can you compare it with an industry? In industry, you can have a Board of Managers. You can have

others. But how will you collect all these villagers to consider their shares and dividend and profit. It is a very difficult thing. But the importance that we are giving it is in no way less than the importance given to an industry. It is the very basis of our economy. It is in no way less than an industry. Madam, I have answered all the points.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: Madam, I have a pointed question. He referred to the fact that the Government is not accepting agriculture as an industry. We demand that agriculture should be treated as an industry. We do not want these small matters to be raised. My pointed question is whether the Government accepts the principle that there should be parity between the prices of agricultural produce and that of manufactured goods. This is the pointed question and I want a pointed reply.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: I have just replied to it. I have given a comparative evaluation of both the sides. I mentioned that it was a little more two years back. It is a little less in 1984-85. It is 0.3 per cent. But it is your idea and I welcome it.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय मैं चाहता हूं कि माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी मेरी तीन बातों का जवाब देने की कृपा करें । उन्होंने कहा कि एग्रीकल्चरल कोस्ट एण्ड प्राइस कमीशन का गठन हो चका है और वह काम कर रहा है । पहले इसमें एग्रीकल्चर का एक मेम्बर होता था । अब आपने तीन नान-आफिशियल मेम्बर्स होने तय किये हैं । क्या इन नान-आफिशियल मेम्बर्स में फार्मर्स के भी रिप्रेजेंटेटिव होंगे ? दूसरी बात मैं यह पूंछना चाहता हूं कि अगर आप तीन मेम्बर्स नोमिनेट कर चके हैं तो उनके नाम भी बता दीजिये ? अगर आपने उनका नोमिनेशन नहीं किया है तो फिर एग्रीकल्चरल कोस्ट एण्ड प्राइस कमीशन ने फंक्शन करना कैसे शरू कर दिया है ? अगला सवाल मेरा यह है कि एग्रीकल्चरल कमोडिटीज की प्राइसेज, एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोड्यूस की प्राइसेज, एग्रीकल्चरल इनपुट्स की प्राइसेज और मैनुफैक्चर्ड कमोडिटीज की प्राइसेज के सम्बन्ध में आपने जो फिगर्स कोट किये हैं वे मिसलीड करती है । उनको मैं चेलेन्ज करता हूं । अगर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को उन फिगर्स को लेकर रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया के आधार पर कन्विन्स कर दूं तो क्या वह पैरिटी मेंटेन करने का, जिसका वायदा उन्होंने किया है, कोशिश करेंगे ?

मान्यवर, दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि प्रो० गुलाटी एंड अदर्स के बारे में आपने बताया उन्होने चंद फसलों के लिये कहा है, व्हीट और पडी वगैरह के लिये, यह मैं भी स्वीकार करता हूं कि उन्होंने सारी फसलों के लिये नहीं कहा । यह भी ठीक है । लेकिन जिन फसलों, व्हीट और पैडी के लिये उन्होंने कहा है और उन्होंने 15 के करीब डाक्यूमेंट्स के आधार पर जो अपनी रिपोर्ट रखी है उसके सिलसिले में आपने कुछ नहीं बताया । तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर वह सही है तो उसे क्या आप मानेंगे ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am just referring to the same question which two of my colleagues have asked. And I am only adding a quotation and I do not want to go on a marathon discussion over it because my good friend and my very soft-spoken friend, Mr Dhillon will perhaps be hurt with my type of argument. I only quote what the Indian Institute of Public Opinion stated. I am quoting from the Budget Number — April, 1986 of the Indian Institute of Public Opinion. These are the index numbers compiled by them. The heading of the article is, "Approach to the Price Policy—1986-91". And about the Indian Institute of Public Opinion, I need not say much because the whole country knows about it. Madam, in Table 2, index numbers of wholesale prices. relative prices of manufactured goods and agricultural products have been quoted. They say that in 1971-72, with the base year

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

as 1970-71 with 100 as you have already stated, it was 109.1 per cent. That is the price of the manufactured product as percentage of the price of agricultural product. So, agriculture was at a disadvantage *vis-a-vis* the manufactured products. And the disadvantage was 109.1 per cent. Now, I go straightaway to March, 1986. In between, these were some rises and falls. In March, 1986, it was 110.5 per cent. In 1971-72, it was 109.1 per cent and in March, 1986, it was 110.5 per cent. Then, where is these "minus .09" etc., "That was my query yesterday and today also. Then I quoate again. Of course, this is a part of the incorrect price parity in the Indian economic system. The price policy and the major plan objective was to remove rural poverty, bring about price stability and maintain parity between the manufactured products and the agricultural products. Madam, the second point is... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If there is any dispute regarding the figures mentioned in any book, as you have just quoted the Indian Institute of Public Opinion, you can meet him in the Chamber and you can set it right. Why do you put across as to whose figures are correct and whose figures are not correct? That question is not allowed. The Minister may now answer the queries raised by Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Verma.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं हाथ उठा कर खड़ा हूं, मैं एक सवाल पूंछना चाहता हूं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister, you can answer to their two queries.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : उपसभापति महोदया बाद में मुझे इजाजत मिलगी क्या ? (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : अब कैसे होगी, एक बार कहा गया, दो बार कहा गया (**व्यवधान**)

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : मैंने एक बार भी नहीं उठाया है । मैं कल भी नहीं बोला था, आज भी मैंने कोई सवाल नहीं किया है ।

उपसभापति : बाद में जा कर मिनिस्टर साहब से पूंछ लेना ।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : यों तो मिनिस्टर साहब से रोज मिलते हैं । इस हाउस में भी हम सवाल उठाना चाहते हैं ।

उपसभापति : आप इस विषय के बहुत एक्सपर्ट हैं । हमेशा बोलते रहते हैं (**व्यवधान**) जो क्लेरीफिकेशंस पूंछी गई थीं मिनिस्टर साहब उन का जवाब आज दे रहे हैं । कोई डिसिप्लिन होना चाहिये । (**व्यवधान**) No more questions please.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : हम गांव की कुछ वास्तविक बात कहना चाहते हैं ।

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : वाजपेयी जी से पहले कुलकर्णी चले गये हैं (**व्यवधान**)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: मैं अगर चला जाऊं तो आप पहले मेरी फिक्र करेंगे ।

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : उनको तो मुझे शक नहीं कहां गये हैं, आपका मुझे जरूर शक होगा । उन्होंने 1986 का पूछा है और मैंने 1985 का कहा है । मुझे समझ में नहीं आया आज वह 1986 का कैसे कह रहे हैं जबकि कल उन्होंने 1985 का पूछा था । यह तो मैं पहले ही बता चुका हूं ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : हम आपके आफिस में आकर आपसे बात करेंगे ।

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : बड़ी खुशी होगी आप किसी बहाने तो आइये ।

श्री अटल बिहार वाजपेयी : महोदया, इसका मतलब यह है कि सरकार मानती है कि पेरिटी होनी चाहिये ।

Have they accepted the principle that their should be parity?

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : हम कोशिश करते हैं कि रखी जाए । पहले ज्यादा थी 0.3 थी ।

At this time of the year it may go up, or it may come down.

पेरिटी का मतलब यह नहीं है कि फंक्शन तक आए ।

It is almost parity.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will now take up special mentions.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया है । उपसभापति महोदया, मैंने एग्रीकल्चर कास्ट एण्ड प्राइस कमीशन के बारे में पूंछा था कि आपने मेम्बर्ज को नामीनेट किया है या नहीं किया है ? अगर वह फंक्शन कर रहा है तो वह भी बता दें । नामीनेट किये हैं या नहीं किये हैं ?

श्री जी० एस० ढिल्लों : नामीनेट किया होता तो आपको खुद ही पता लग जाना था । पहले इसमें एक है बाकी करने हैं लेकिन जो पहले है वह फंक्शन कर रहा है ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Prof. Asima Chatterjee.

REFERENCE TO THE ALLEGED PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF DECONTROL OF MOLASSES

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated): Madam Chairperson, it is a matter of grave concern that the production of homoeopathic medicines in various alcohol based chemical and pharmaceutical products is being seriously hampered due to the inadequate supply of alcohol. The alcohol available in the market can hardly meet the demands. This industrial alcohol is obtained from molasses by fermentation process.

Madam, it has appeared in the news-item in the Hindustan Times (November 6, 1986) that molasses will be decontrolled. This will precipitate serious crisis because decontrol of mloasses would destabilise the alcohol manufacturing at also the alcohol based chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Besides generating black money on a large scale, the decontrol of molasses would provide wide scope for dilution and adulteration of molasses. This would affect the yield of alcohol and enhance its cost of production.

It would also have some disastrous consequences and encourage illicit distillation in a big way and also provide encouragement to widespread corruption in the enforcement agencies and leakage of excise revenue to the States. Moreover, large scale consumption of illicit liquor would result in health hazards the community and liver cirrhosis and necrosis would become common. Apprehending the harmful effects of the decontrol of molasses, the All India Distillaries Association has apprised the Union Industry Minister to consider the matter on practical aspects and take necessary action. I would, therefore, like to draw the attention of the Government through you, to consider the matter and not to decontol the molasses in order to avoid disastrous consequences. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE DEATH OF NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT BY ALL INDIA RADIO.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Chairperson, I would like to put on record my strong disapproval of the way in